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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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November 16, 1984

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Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Custer, Montana
40 Yard Container Site

Board of County Commissioners, Yellowstone Co. Courthouse, Billings, MT
Dick Buelke, Chmn, Yellowstone County Solid Waste Disposal District,
P. O. Box 35000, Billings, MT
Junction City Ranch Company, 1242 North 28th Street, Billings, MT
Rockwood Brown, Attorney At Law, 315 N 24, Billings, MT
Louis Ladas, R.S., City County Health Dept., P.O. Box 3500, Billings, MT
George Freeman, City-Co. Planning Director, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
✓ Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Custer, Montana 40 yard container site.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JCG:vc

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
 Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
 (406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Custer 40 Yard Container Site

Description of Project The Yellowstone County solid waste disposal district has submitted to this department a solid waste management system license application for the Custer, Montana 40 yard container site. This PER is being circulated as part of the public review process for this proposed project. This container site would be located approximately 1 mile north of Custer on Highway 310 (See Attached map).

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality		X				X
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health		X				X
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Yellowstone City County Health Department

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No EIS Necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach

JOHN C. GEACH

Date: November 16, 1984

DHES/ESD-2

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats

This project will consist of a one acre 40 yard container site located adjacent to Secondary Highway 310. This area has not been developed and contains grasses, weeds and other native vegetative cover species. The size, location and vegetative production of this area makes it a suitable habitat for insects and small animals such as birds, pocket gophers, ground squirrels and field mice. Due to the vast number of acres of similar habitat adjoining this site and the limited size of this project, only insignificant habitat impacts will occur.

3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture

Soil cut and fill procedures used in the construction of this project will slightly alter the soil stability and moisture holding capacity within the immediate area of the site. These changes should be relatively short term.

4. Vegetative cover, quantity and quality

The container site location contains native species of grasses and plants. This vegetation will be disturbed during the installation of the container site. This disturbance should be short term and very little permanent vegetation loss should result.

5. Aesthetics

The aesthetics of the container site location will be altered by the construction of the site's concrete retaining wall, road and fences. The potential of litter from this site will be controlled through the use of litter fencing immediately adjacent to the container and along the site's perimeter.

6. Air quality

The air quality in the area of the proposed container site should be greatly improved since the site will be replacing a currently operated open burning dump. Although there is always a potential of a refuse fire in a container, the changes and impact of such a fire are significantly less than those of an infrequently maintained open burning dump.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

5. Human health

The implementation of this proposed container program will allow an improperly maintained open burning dump to be closed. This open dump currently poses serious potential health hazards to the nearby community of Custer. These hazards will be eliminated through the proper storage and disposal of the community's solid waste.



10. Demands for government services

Governmental services will be required on the local and state levels for inspection and administrative service associated with the issuances of a solid waste management system license to this container site.

12. Demands for energy

The operation of the container retrieval and transportation vehicle will result in the consumption of diesel fuel and other petroleum products.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

Individual private vehicles and the container retrieval truck will be routinely travelling to this container site. Since this site will replace an open dump in the immediate area, no significant increase in traffic flow patterns is expected.



